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1962/10/24

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State CWT-1581

38-W

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CONFIDENTIAL

Action

Control: 18267

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FROM: NEW YORK

Rec'd: OCTOBER 25, 1962
2:26 PM

Info

TO: Secretary of State
NO: 1458, OCTOBER 24, 2 PM

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TOP

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RMR

NIACT

PASS WHITE HOUSE

POLICY

RE CUBA

FOLLOWING IS SECOND MESSAGE FROM SYG TO PRESIDENT JUST
DELIVERED TO ME:

"DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR,

I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO TRANSMIT
THE ENCLOSED MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES JOHN F. KENNEDY."

"MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY

I HAVE TODAY SENT A FURTHER MESSAGE TO CHAIRMAN KHRUSHCHEV
EXPRESSING MY GRAVE CONCERN THAT SOVIET SHIPS ALREADY ON
THEIR WAY TO CUBA MIGHT CHALLENGE THE QUARANTINE IMPOSED BY
YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PRODUCE A CONFRONTATION AT SEA BETWEEN
SOVIET SHIPS AND UNITED STATES VESSELS, WHICH COULD LEAD TO AN
AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION. I HAVE ALSO STATED THAT WHAT
CONCERN ME MOST IS THE FACT THAT SUCH A CONFRONTATION AND
CONSEQUENT AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION WOULD DESTROY ANY
POSSIBILITY OF THE DISCUSSIONS THAT I HAVE SUGGESTED AS
A PRELUDE TO NEGOTIATIONS ON A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. I HAVE
ACCORDINGLY EXPRESSED TO HIM MY EARNEST HOPE THAT SOVIET SHIPS

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050,
Attn:
Office,
Secy of Def.
Cable File
Cable Act.
23-24, 1962

GU-415

CWII-258/2

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-2- 1458, OCTOBER 24, 2 PM, FROM NEW YORK

ALREADY ON THEIR WAY TO CUBA MIGHT BE INSTRUCTED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE INTERCEPTION AREA FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY, IN ORDER TO PERMIT DISCUSSIONS OF THE MODALITIES OF A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT WHICH COULD SETTLE THE PROBLEM PEACEFULLY IN LINE WITH THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

"IN CONTINUATION OF MY MESSAGE OF YESTERDAY AND MY SPEECH BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL, I WOULD NOW LIKE TO APPEAL TO YOUR EXCELLENCE THAT INSTRUCTIONS MAY BE ISSUED TO UNITED STATES VESSELS IN THE CARIBBEAN TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH SOVIET SHIPS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF ANY UNTOWARD INCIDENT. IF I COULD BE INFORMED OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY YOUR GOVERNMENT ON THE BASIS OF THIS APPEAL, I COULD INFORM CHAIRMAN KHRUSHCHEV AVOIDING ALL RISK OF AN UNTOWARD INCIDENT. I WOULD EXPRESS THE FURTHER HOPE THAT SUCH COOPERATION COULD BE THE PRELUDE TO A QUICK AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE BASIS OF WHICH THE QUARANTINE MEASURES THEMSELVES COULD BE CALLED OFF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

"U THANT ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL."

STEVENSON

SAP

NOTE: PASSED WHITE HOUSE 10/25/62.

NOTE: Advance copy TO, SS-O 8:15 PM 10/25/CWO-JSW

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23-24/1962

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